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1. (Amended twice) A method for inhibiting apoptosis of a cell comprising treating the cell with [an effective amount of] a Receptor Internalization and Degradation (RID) complex having a RID α polypeptide and a RID β polypeptide, wherein the amount of RID complex utilized in treating the cell is sufficient to inhibit apoptosis of the cell.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the treating step comprises administering to the cell a recombinant polynucleotide encoding the RID complex and wherein the RID complex is expressed in the cell.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the treating step comprises administering the RID complex to the cell with a carrier which facilitates delivery of the RID complex into the cell.

10. (Amended twice) A method for decreasing apoptosis of target cells in a patient comprising [treating] administering to target cells of the patient [with an effective amount of] a Receptor Internalization and Degradation (RID) complex having a RID α polypeptide and a RID β polypeptide, wherein the amount of RID complex utilized in treating the cell is sufficient to inhibit apoptosis of the cell.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the treating step comprises administering the RID complex to target cells of the patient with a carrier which facilitates delivery of the RID complex into the cells.

17. (Amended twice) A method for decreasing leukocyte apoptosis in a patient comprising:

(1) withdrawing leukocytes from the patient,

(2) treating the leukocytes with [an effective amount of] a RID complex having a RID α polypeptide and a RID β polypeptide, wherein the amount of RID complex utilized in treating the cell is sufficient to inhibit apoptosis of the cell, and

(3) administering the treated leukocytes to the patient.

23. (Amended twice) A composition comprising a Receptor Internalization and Degradation (RID) complex and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, where the RID complex includes a RID α polypeptide and a RID β polypeptide and wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable excipient includes a carrier which facilitates delivery of the RID complex into the cells.

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